

Claim 39. (Amended) The method of Claim 36 wherein the silicon dioxide has a mean particle size of less than about 1 micron.

Claim 41. (Amended) The method of Claim 38 wherein the silicon dioxide is selected from the group consisting of fumed silicon dioxide, precipitated silicon dioxide, coacervated silicon dioxide, gel silicon dioxide, and mixtures thereof.

Please add the following new Claims 42-48:

--Claim 42. The method of Claim 36 wherein the salt of citric acid is sodium citrate.--

--Claim 43. An oral, mucoretentive, aqueous liquid, pharmaceutical composition comprising:

- 71  
conceded.
- (a) from about 2% to about 50%, by weight of the composition, of colloidal particles of silicon dioxide; and
  - (b) a safe and effective amount of a pharmaceutical active selected from the group consisting of gastrointestinal agents, analgesics, decongestants, expectorants, antitussives, antihistamines, bronchodilators, topical anesthetics, sensory agents, and mixtures thereof.--

--Claim 44. The oral, mucoretentive, aqueous liquid, pharmaceutical composition of Claim 43 wherein the composition comprises from about 3% to about 20% by weight of the colloidal particles of silicon dioxide.--

--Claim 45. The oral, mucoretentive, aqueous liquid, pharmaceutical composition of Claim 44 wherein the silicon dioxide has a mean particle size of less than about 1 micron.--

--Claim 46. The oral, mucoretentive, aqueous liquid, pharmaceutical composition of Claim 43 wherein the silicon dioxide is selected from the group consisting of fumed silicon dioxide, precipitated silicon dioxide, coacervated silicon dioxide, gel silicon dioxide, and mixtures thereof.--

--Claim 47. The oral, mucoretentive, aqueous liquid, pharmaceutical composition of Claim 43 wherein the composition further comprises from about 0.005% to about 3.0% by weight of citric acid or a salt thereof.--

MC57  
--Claim 48. The oral, mucoretentive, aqueous liquid, pharmaceutical composition of Claim 47 wherein the salt of citric acid is sodium citrate.--